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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

MAX RUHLMAN and ERIC SAMBOLD,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GLENN RUDOLFSKY, individually and DBA
HOUSE OF DREAMS KAUAI and HOUSE OF
DREAMS HAWAII; KIM D. RUDOLFSKY,
AKA KIM DAPOLITO, individually; and DBA
HOUSE OF DREAMS KAUAI and HOUSE OF
DREAMS HAWAII,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: 2:14-cv-00879-RFB-NJK

MOTION TO STAY CASE

Defendants, Glenn Rudolfsky (“Mr. Rudolfsky”) and Kim Rudolfsky (“Mrs. Rudolfsky”) (collectively “Defendants”), by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby move this Court to stay this case pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c)(1). Currently pending before the Court is Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs’ Complaint for Lack of Personal Jurisdiction and *Forum Non Conveniens* (Doc. 14). This Motion is made and based upon the papers and pleadings on file herein, the following points and authorities and any oral argument on this matter.

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POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I.

FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On June 6, 2014, Max Ruhlman and Eric Sambold (collectively “Plaintiffs”) filed the present action, alleging various torts and breaches by Defendants (Doc. 1) (the “Complaint”). On August 1, 2014, Defendants filed a Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs’ Complaint for Lack of Personal Jurisdiction and *Forum Non Conveniens* (Doc. 14) (the “MTD”). Plaintiffs filed an Opposition to Defendants’ Motion on August 29, 2014 (Doc. 21) and Defendants filed a Reply in Support of Defendants’ Motion on September 8, 2014 (Doc. 23).

The allegations of the Complaint revolve around the purchase of a property located in Hawaii on the island of Kauai (the “Property”). See, Complaint ¶ 7. In order to facilitate the purchase of the Property, a mortgage (the “Mortgage”) and note (the “Note”) (collectively the “Loan Documents”) were prepared in Princeville, Hawaii with Defendants and Plaintiff Eric Sambold (“Sambold”) as parties thereto. See, Declaration of Glenn Rudolfsky attached to the MTD as Exhibit “A” at ¶¶ 7-9; Declaration of Kim Rudolfsky attached to the MTD as Exhibit “B” at ¶¶ 7-9. Sambold “is now, and at all times mentioned in this Complaint was domiciled in and a citizen of the State of California.” Complaint ¶ 2. Defendants now and all times relevant to the complaint have principally resided in New York. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 5; the Motion Ex. B at ¶ 5. Mr. Rudolfsky is legally a resident of Hawaii and Mrs. Rudolfsky is legally a resident of New York. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 6; MTD Ex. B at ¶ 6.

The Loan Documents were signed by Sambold in the State of California and by Defendants in the State of New York. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 10; MTD Ex. B at ¶ 10. Paragraph 23 of the Mortgage states that the Mortgage shall be governed by the laws of the State of Hawaii. A true and correct copy of the Mortgage is attached to the MTD as Exhibit “C”. Article XI of the Note also states that the Note shall be governed by the laws of the State of Hawaii. A true and correct copy of the Note is attached to the MTD as Exhibit “D”. The Property was subsequently leased as a vacation property in Hawaii and managed from New York. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 11.

1 During negotiations preceding the purchase of the Property and the execution of the Loan
2 Documents, Defendants and Plaintiffs expressed an interest in forming a Limited Liability
3 Company (“LLC”). See, Id. at ¶ 12. Plaintiffs took the position that an LLC should be filed in
4 Nevada and Defendants insisted that any LLC agreement be written by their attorney in New
5 York. See, Id. at ¶ 13. Since no terms or agreements were ever made or written, Defendants did
6 not agree to file an LLC in any state. See, Id. Other issues regarding the organization of the
7 LLC and how Defendants and Plaintiffs would move forward in their contemplated business
8 remained in contention and an agreement was never reached on these issues. See, Id. at ¶ 14.

9 On September 19, 2012, Plaintiffs unilaterally registered Ke Aloha LLC with the
10 Secretary of State of Nevada, listing Mr. Rudolfsky as the sole managing member. See, Articles
11 of Organization of Ke Aloha LLC, attached to the MTD as Ex. “E”; MTD Ex. A at ¶ 15. Neither
12 of Defendants ever agreed to or signed any documents forming Ke Aloha LLC. See, MTD Ex. A
13 at ¶ 18; MTD Ex. B at ¶ 12. On October 9, 2012, an Initial List of Managers or Managing
14 Members (the “Initial List”) was filed for Ke Aloha LLC listing Mr. Rudolfsky as the managing
15 member. See, Initial List of Managers or Managing Members attached to the MTD as Exhibit
16 “F”. The Managing Member line of the Initial List was not signed by Mr. Rudolfsky, but rather
17 by John H. Brebbia, an attorney who does not now, nor has ever, represented Mr. Rudolfsky.
18 See, Id.; MTD Ex. A at ¶ 19. The Defendants only learned of Ke Aloha LLC when the Nevada
19 Secretary of State sent a bill to Mr. Rudolfsky in October of 2013. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 20;
20 MTD Ex. B at ¶ 13. Mr. Rudolfsky then filed papers to dissolve Ke Aloha LLC so as to avoid
21 the liability that might accompany the existence and operation of an LLC with which Mr.
22 Rudolfsky has no connection. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 21.

23 On January 6, 2012, Defendants had dinner with Plaintiffs in Las Vegas, Nevada. See,
24 Id. at ¶ 22; MTD Ex. B at ¶ 14. Nothing relative to this litigation was discussed at that dinner.
25 See, MTD. Ex. A at ¶ 23; MTD Ex. B at ¶ 15. On the following day, January 7, 2012, Mr.
26 Rudolfsky and Plaintiffs met for lunch and discussed some matters relevant to this dispute,
27 though no terms were agreed to or contracts made at that meeting. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 24.
28 Mrs. Rudolfsky was not present for that lunch and never participated in any discussions with

1 Plaintiffs relevant to this dispute in Nevada. See, MTD Ex. A at ¶ 25; MTD Ex. B at ¶ 16.

2 Mr. Sambold expressly stated that no agreements or promises were made in Las Vegas.
3 Specifically, Mr. Sambold stated in an email:

4 Keep in mind that in Vegas we were discussing things as adults do from time to
5 time without making promises but simply with the intent of discussing options
6 and ideas to see if we could come up with mutually beneficial ideas. This process
can be discribed [*sic*] as “Spitballing” or “Brainstorming”. . . **We certainly never
agreed on any terms and conditions nor made any promises.**

7 See Email from Sambold to G. Rudofsky dated March 19, 2013, attached to the MTD as Exhibit
8 “G” (emphasis added). Extensive negotiations were later conducted in person in the State of
9 Hawaii and by email and phone with the Defendants and Plaintiffs in different locations. See,
10 MTD Ex. A at ¶ 26. Defendants never again set foot in Nevada for any of these additional
11 negotiations. See, Id. at ¶ 27.

12 II.

13 **THIS CASE SHOULD BE STAYED UNTIL THE** 14 **DETERMINATION OF DEFENDANTS’ MOTION TO DISMISS**

15 A. The Standard for a Stay of Discovery

16 “When evaluating a motion to stay discovery while a dispositive motion is pending, the
17 court initially considers the goal of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 1. The guiding premise of
18 the Rules is that the Rules ‘should be construed and administered to secure the just, speedy, and
19 inexpensive determination of every action.’” Rosenstein v. Clark County Sch. Dist., 2:13-cv-
20 1443, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85019, *6 (D. Nev. June 23, 2014) (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 1).
21 “Discovery is expensive. The Supreme Court has long mandated that trial courts should resolve
22 civil matters fairly but without undue cost.” Id. (citing Brown Shoe Co. v. United States, 370
23 U.S. 294, 306, 82 S. Ct. 1502, 8 L. Ed. 2d 510 (1962)). “This directive is echoed by Rule 26,
24 which instructs the court to balance the expense of discovery against its likely benefit. See Fed.
25 R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(C)(iii).” Id.

26 “Consistent with the Supreme Court’s mandate that trial courts should balance fairness
27 and cost, the Rules do not provide for automatic or blanket stays of discovery when a potentially
28 dispositive motion is pending.” Id. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c)(1) states, “[t]he court

1 may, for good cause, issue an order to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment,
 2 oppression, or undue burden or expense.” “This rule authorizes the court to stay discovery.”
 3 Rosenstein, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85019, *7.

4 Whether to grant a stay is within the discretion of the court. Munoz-Santana v. U.S.
 5 I.N.S., 742 F.2d 561, 562 (9th Cir. 1984). “Generally, imposing a stay of discovery pending a
 6 motion to dismiss is permissible if there are no factual issues raised by the motion to dismiss,
 7 discovery is not required to address the issues raised by the motion to dismiss, and the court is
 8 ‘convinced’ that the plaintiff is unable to state a claim for relief.” Rosenstein, 2014 U.S. Dist.
 9 LEXIS 85019, *7 (citing Rae v. Union Bank, 725 F.2d 478, 481 (9th Cir. 1984)). “Typical
 10 situations in which staying discovery pending a ruling on a dispositive motion are appropriate
 11 would be where the dispositive motion raises issues of jurisdiction, venue, or immunity.” Id.
 12 (citing TradeBay, LLC v. Ebay, Inc., 278 F.R.D. 597, 600 (D. Nev. 2011)).

13 Courts in the District of Nevada apply a two-part test when evaluating whether a
 14 discovery stay should be imposed. First, the pending motion must be potentially
 15 dispositive of the entire case or at least the issue on which discovery is sought.
 16 Second, the court must determine whether the pending motion to dismiss can be
 17 decided without additional discovery. When applying this test, the court must
 18 take a ‘preliminary peek’ at the merits of the pending dispositive motion to assess
 19 whether a stay is warranted. The purpose of the ‘preliminary peek’ is not to
 20 prejudge the outcome of the motion to dismiss. Rather, the court’s role is to
 21 evaluate the propriety of an order staying or limiting discovery with the goal of
 22 accomplishing the objectives of Rule 1.

23 Rosenstein, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85019, *7 (internal citation omitted); see also, Kabo Tools
 24 Co. v. Porauto Indus. Co., Ltd., 2:12-cv-01859-LDG-NJK, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 156928, *4
 25 (D. Nev. Oct. 31, 2013).

26 B. A Stay of Discovery is Appropriate

27 Motions to dismiss based upon jurisdiction, such as the MTD, necessarily have the
 28 potential to be dispositive of the entire case. As such, the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada,
 has routinely found that a stay of discovery is appropriate when such a motion is brought. See,
 e.g., Best Odds Corp. v. iBus Media Ltd., 2:13-cv-2008, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66927, *24 (D.
 Nev. May 9, 2014); Grand Canyon Skywalk Dev. LLC v. Steele, 2:13-cv-00596, 2014 U.S. Dist.
 LEXIS 1550, *14 (D. Nev. Jan. 6, 2014); Money v. Health, 3:11-cv-00800, 2012 U.S. Dist.

1 LEXIS 49922, *36 (D. Nev. Apr. 9, 2012) (regarding subject matter jurisdiction); Lo v. Golden
 2 Gaming, 2:12-cv-01885, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24265, *7 (D. Nev. Feb. 26, 2014); Solida v.
 3 United States Dep't of Fish & Wildlife, 288 F.R.D. 500, 506-507 (D. Nev. 2013). This Court
 4 has noted that “courts are more inclined to stay discovery pending resolution of a motion to
 5 dismiss challenging personal jurisdiction because it presents a ‘critical preliminary question.’
 6 **The filing of a Rule 12(b)(2) motion to dismiss strongly favors a stay**, or at a minimum,
 7 limitations on discovery until the question of jurisdiction is resolved.” Kabo Tool Co. v. Porauto
 8 Indus. Co., 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 53570 (D. Nev. Apr. 15, 2013) (citations omitted) (emphasis
 9 added). The District of Nevada has recognized the value of stays in the face of a challenge to
 10 litigation in light of “the importance of resolving jurisdiction at the earliest possible stage in
 11 litigation.” Lo, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24265, *7. “The burden of proving jurisdiction rests on
 12 the party asserting jurisdiction, and, if a doubt exists, courts are to presume that they lack
 13 jurisdiction.” Best Odds Corp., 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66927 at *24 (citing McNutt v. General
 14 Motors Acceptance Corp., 298 U.S. 178, 182-83 (1936); Turner v. President, Directors, & Co. of
 15 Bank of North America, 4 U.S. 8, 11 (U.S. 1799)) (granting a stay on the basis of that
 16 presumption).

17 This motion can be determined without additional discovery. See, Kabo Tools Co., 2013
 18 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 156928 at *4. In their Opposition to the MTD, Plaintiffs chose not to argue
 19 that any further discovery was necessary to determine jurisdiction. Plaintiffs have effectively
 20 conceded that jurisdiction in this case can be determined based on the pleadings. The District of
 21 Nevada has previously noted that the failure to allege that further discovery is needed “weighs in
 22 favor of staying discovery.” Solida, 288 F.R.D. at 506.

23 Discovery in this case would not only be unnecessary, but would place an undue burden
 24 on Defendants. Defendants are of limited financial means and will be unable to meet the burden
 25 of financing Nevada attorneys to conduct discovery in Hawaii or to hire additional Hawaiian
 26 counsel for the purpose of discovery. In fact, Plaintiffs have confirmed in an email that they
 27 strategically filed the lawsuit in Nevada with fees and costs as the motivating factor. Plaintiff
 28 Sambold stated; “Now that he has a lawyer can we . . . file a lawsuit so he doesn’t do it first in

1 NY. The way I see it if he files in NY we lose. Even if we win we lose after fees and travel.”
 2 See, May 6, 2014 Email attached hereto as Exhibit “A”. Defendants should not be forced to
 3 conduct expensive discovery in a case that will likely be dismissed.

4 C. A Preliminary Peak at the Pleadings

5 1. The Court Lacks Jurisdiction Over Mrs. Rudolfsky, Who is an Essential Party to
 6 the Case

7 To dismiss this action in whole, the Court would only have to find that it lacked personal
 8 jurisdiction over Mrs. Rudolfsky. As the Property to which Plaintiffs claim an interest is owned
 9 jointly by Mr. and Mrs. Rudolfsky, Mrs. Rudolfsky is a necessary and indispensable party.
 10 Specifically, Plaintiffs’ prayer for relief requests “an Order decreeing that Defendants shall
 11 execute and deliver to Plaintiffs and the Ke Aloha, LLC, complete conveyance of the five acre
 12 Kauai estate.” See Complaint and Jury Demand, ¶ B [Dkt. No. 6]. If the Court does not have
 13 personal jurisdiction over Mrs. Rudolfsky, the Court would be required to dismiss the entire
 14 action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 19(b).

15 Plaintiffs’ Opposition to Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss (the “Opposition”) makes the
 16 unsubstantiated allegation that “[b]oth Rudolfsky Defendants have transacted business in Nevada
 17 by meeting with the Plaintiffs in Las Vegas and successfully soliciting \$550,000 from the
 18 Plaintiffs for their fifty percent interest in the Ke Aloha joint venture.” Opp’n at 6. This
 19 allegation is in sharp contrast to the rest of the Opposition which attributes all business activities
 20 that took place in Nevada to Mr. Rudolfsky alone, including “the Tortious Acts in Nevada”
 21 which are attributed solely to Mr. Rudolfsky and the allegation that only Mr. Rudolfsky “shook
 22 hand (*sic.*) on the joint venture” in Nevada. See Opp’n at 7, 2. The affidavits of Mr. Rudolfsky
 23 and Mrs. Rudolfsky both explain that all business discussions took place at a lunch which was
 24 not attended by Mrs. Rudolfsky, the Plaintiffs have made no response to this fact either to deny it
 25 or to claim that Mrs. Rudolfsky participated in business discussions at another time. See, MTD
 26 Ex. A at ¶¶ 22-25; MTD Ex. B at ¶¶ 14-16. Without giving any detail of her alleged conduct in
 27 Nevada, Plaintiffs make unsubstantiated accusations for the sole purpose of establishing
 28 jurisdiction where it does not appropriately lie. See, Holland Am. Line, Inc. v. Wartsila N. Am.,

1 Inc., 485 F.3d 450 (9th Cir. Wash. 2007) (“Such an unsubstantiated and vague statement does
2 not establish a prima facie case for jurisdiction.”).

3 Plaintiffs’ only other basis for alleging that Mrs. Rudofsky has conducted business in
4 Nevada is the shareholder reports that Mrs. Rudofsky emailed to Ruhlman which he allegedly
5 received in Nevada. The Ninth Circuit has held that the “use of the mails, telephone or other
6 international communications simply do not qualify as purposeful activity invoking the benefits
7 and protection of the forum state.” Peterson v. Kennedy, 771 F.2d 1244, 1262 (9th Cir. 1985).
8 The Ninth Circuit later updated the holding of Peterson to include email. Sarkis v. Lajca, 425
9 Fed. Appx. 557, 558-559 (9th Cir. 2011) (“While [defendant] contacted [plaintiff] in California
10 through phone and e-mail to negotiate his contract, the ‘use of the mails, telephone or other
11 international communications simply do not qualify as purposeful activity invoking the benefits
12 and protection of the forum state.’”). If the receipt of shareholder reports by email was sufficient
13 to establish personal jurisdiction nearly every large company in the United States would be
14 subject to jurisdiction in every state and territory. As emails cannot create personal jurisdiction
15 over Mrs. Rudofsky, she is not subject to personal jurisdiction in Nevada and the entire case
16 must be dismissed.

17 2. Mr. Rudofsky’s Business Activities in Nevada Are Insufficient to Establish 18 Jurisdiction

19 a. The January 7, 2012 Meeting

20 The January 7, 2012 meeting was one of several communications, which combined,
21 shaped the dealings between the Defendants and the Plaintiffs (collectively the “Parties”). See,
22 Opp’n at 2-4. However, as Sambold confirmed in an email about his meeting with Mr.
23 Rudofsky in Nevada, the parties “certainly never agreed on any terms and conditions nor made
24 any promises.” See MTD Ex. G. In order for specific jurisdiction to be established “the claim
25 must arise out of the defendant’s forum-related activities.” Gray & Co. v. Firstenberg Machinery
26 Co., 913 F.2d 758, 760 (9th Cir. 1990). Because the January 7, 2012 meeting was only one of
27 several communications and meetings in the development of the Parties’ activities and because
28 that meeting did not produce “any terms and conditions nor . . . any promises,” the meeting

1 cannot accurately be construed as the source of the claim. See, MTD Ex. G. In a similar case,
 2 the Eleventh Circuit found that a Defendant that had visited the forum three times to train the
 3 plaintiff and had communicated by phone and fax repeatedly with the plaintiff while the plaintiff
 4 was in the forum had still not developed sufficient minimum contacts to establish specific
 5 personal jurisdiction. See, Primus Corp. v. Centreformat Ltd., 221 Fed. Appx. 492, 493-494 (8th
 6 Cir. 2007). The Eleventh Circuit in Primus Corp. found dispositive the fact that the visits that
 7 had occurred within the forum did not include the negotiation or finalizing of the underlying
 8 agreement, despite the fact that they related to the business conducted by the parties. Id.
 9 General jurisdiction is also inapplicable as one meeting cannot possibly be considered
 10 “affiliations with the State [that] are so ‘continuous and systematic’ as to render them essentially
 11 at home in the forum State” as is necessary to establish general jurisdiction. Goodyear Dunlop
 12 Tires Operations, S.A. v. Brown, 131 S.Ct. 2846, 2851 (2011).

13 b. Mr. Rudofsky’s Emails

14 Plaintiffs rely on emails sent from Mr. Rudofsky in other jurisdictions which were
 15 allegedly received by Ruhlman in Nevada to establish jurisdiction. As explained above, the
 16 Ninth Circuit has held that emails “simply do not qualify as purposeful activity invoking the
 17 benefits and protection of the forum state.” Peterson, 771 F.2d at 1262; see also, Sarkis, 425
 18 Fed. Appx. at 559. The emails that Ruhlman allegedly received in Nevada do nothing to
 19 establish jurisdiction over Mr. Rudofsky.

20 c. The Nevada LLC

21 Mr. Rudofsky was illegitimately listed as the managing member of Ke Aloha LLC with
 22 the Nevada Secretary of State without his knowledge or consent. Even if this Court were to put
 23 credence in Ke Aloha LLC’s filing, such a filing is insufficient to establish general personal
 24 jurisdiction. This Court has previously stated that “membership in a single LLC or being a
 25 director of a single corporation may not constitute sufficient contact with Nevada” to establish
 26 jurisdiction. Gala v. Britt, 2:10-cv-00079-RLH-RJJ, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 133429 (D. Nev.
 27 Dec. 15, 2010).

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1 3. Mr. Rudolfsky's Alleged Tortious Actions Do Not Establish Jurisdiction

2 The Ninth Circuit has held that in tort cases the court should “inquire whether a
3 defendant purposefully directs his activities at the forum state, applying an ‘effects’ test that
4 focuses on the forum in which the defendant’s actions were felt, whether or not the actions
5 themselves occurred within the forum. The “effects” test . . . requires that the defendant
6 allegedly must have (1) committed an intentional act, (2) expressly aimed at the forum state, (3)
7 causing harm that the defendant knows is likely to be suffered in the forum state.” Mavrix
8 Photo, Inc. v. Brand Techs., Inc., 647 F.3d 1218 (9th Cir. Cal. 2011) (citations omitted). The tort
9 that is alleged here deals with the purchase, ownership and management of a Hawaii property.
10 All of the effects arising from this purported tort would be aimed at and suffered exclusively in
11 Hawaii. None of the effects would be aimed at or suffered in Nevada and as such this Court
12 cannot have jurisdiction to hear such a tort.

13 4. Mr. Rudolfsky's Ownership of Property Does Not Establish Jurisdiction

14 Plaintiffs allege jurisdiction over Mr. Rudolfsky based on his ownership of property in
15 Nevada. The Nevada property in question (Mr. Rudolfsky’s “Mother’s Home”) was purchased
16 by Mr. Rudolfsky’s parents in 1991. See, Declaration of Glenn Rudolfsky attached to the Reply
17 in Support of Defendants’ Motion as Exhibit “1” at ¶ 5. Following the death of his father in
18 1999, Mr. Rudolfsky was added as a joint tenant of his Mother’s Home in 2000. Id. at ¶ 6. This
19 was done solely for estate planning purposes. Id. Mr. Rudolfsky visited his mother at his
20 Mother’s Home when he came to Nevada for the January 7, 2012 meeting. Id. at ¶ 7. That visit
21 is the only time since his father’s funeral in 1999 that he has been to his Mother’s Home or been
22 in Nevada. Id. at ¶ 8. The Supreme Court has explained that “although the presence of the
23 defendant’s property in a State might suggest the existence of other ties among the defendant, the
24 State, and the litigation, the presence of the property alone would not support the State’s
25 jurisdiction.” See, Shaffer v. Heitner, 433 U.S. 186, 209 (1977). Plaintiffs have failed to allege
26 any basis for why the joint ownership of the Mother’s Home should suggest any other ties
27 between Mr. Rudolfsky and Nevada. The mere ownership of the property cannot be construed to
28 support jurisdiction. See, Id.

1 5. In the Alternative, Transfer to Hawaii is Appropriate as Hawaii is a Superior
 2 Alternative Forum

3 Section 1404(a) states that “a district court may transfer any civil action to any other
 4 district or division where it might have been brought” for “the convenience of the parties and
 5 witnesses [and] in the interest of justice.” 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). A motion to transfer an action
 6 pursuant to this authority presents two basic questions: (1) whether the action sought to be
 7 transferred “might have been brought” in the proposed transferee district; and (2) whether the
 8 transfer would be “(f)or the ‘convenience of parties and witnesses, in the interest of justice.’”
 9 Int’l Patent Dev. Corp. v. Wyomont Partners, 489 F. Supp. 226, 228 (D. Nev. 1980).

10 The Ninth Circuit has held that, under § 1404(a), a district court must weigh multiple
 11 factors in making an “individualized, case-by-case consideration of convenience and fairness.”
 12 Jones v. GNC Franchising, Inc., 211 F.3d 495, 498 (9th Cir. 2000); see also Van Dusen v.
 13 Barrack, 376 U.S. 612, 622 (1964). Factors to be considered include:

14 (1) the location where the relevant agreements were negotiated and executed, (2)
 15 the state that is most familiar with the governing law, (3) the plaintiff’s choice of
 16 forum, (4) the respective parties’ contacts with the forum, (5) the contacts relating
 17 to the plaintiff’s cause of action in the chosen forum, (6) the differences in the
 costs of litigation in the two forums, (7) the availability of compulsory process to
 compel attendance of unwilling non-party witnesses, and (8) the ease of access to
 sources of proof.

18 Jones, 211 F.3d at 498-99.

19 Defendants’ affiliations with Hawaii are “so ‘continuous and systematic’ as to render
 20 them essentially at home” there, as such Defendants are subject to Hawaiian jurisdiction and this
 21 action could be brought there. Goodyear, 131 S.Ct. at 2851. Hawaii is a superior forum as (1) a
 22 significant portion of the negotiations at issue in this case took place in Hawaii; (2) the case will
 23 turn on the interpretation of Hawaii law as to the Loan Documents; (4) all of the parties either
 24 own or have financial interests in property in Hawaii aside from their interests in the Property at
 25 dispute in this issue and all parties travel frequently to Hawaii (See, MTD Ex. A at ¶¶ 33-35); (5)
 26 as outlined above, the contacts in Nevada relating to this cause of action are sparse; (6) litigation
 27 will be substantially less expensive in Hawaii as most if not all necessary witnesses reside in
 28 Hawaii (See Declaration of Glenn Rudolfsky attached to Reply in Support of Defendants’

1 Motion as Exhibit “1” at ¶ 9); (7) compulsory process for unwilling witnesses will be far simpler
2 in the witnesses’ resident state of Hawaii and; (8) sources of proof will be far more easily
3 accessed in Hawaii. Transfer to Hawaii is therefore proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).

4 **CONCLUSION**

5 Cases are frequently granted stays of discovery pending the determination of a motion to
6 dismiss for lack of jurisdiction. The burden of proving jurisdiction rests on the party asserting
7 jurisdiction, and, if a doubt exists, courts are to presume that they lack jurisdiction. Plaintiffs
8 cannot meet their burden to establish that Defendants are subject to jurisdiction in Nevada. A
9 stay is appropriate as the Court is likely to ultimately dismiss this case.

10 DATED this 23rd day of September, 2014.

11 **HOLLEY, DRIGGS, WALCH,**
12 **PUZEY & THOMPSON**

13 */s/ F. Thomas Edwards*

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22 *Attorneys for Defendants*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b), I certify that on the 23rd day of September, 2014, I caused the document entitled DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STAY CASE, to be served by electronically transmitting the document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following registrants:

Elizabeth J. Foley, Esq. – Efoleylawyer@gmail.com

and to the following, via United States Mail, at the below-listed address:

Elizabeth J. Foley, Esq.
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/s/ Norma S. Moseley
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